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THOMSON FINANCIAL



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Results for the 6 months ended 30 June 2003



Highlights

- Turnover for first six months of £6.60m, an increase of 19% over the same period last year.
- Q2 turnover increased by 11% over Q1 this year, and 20% over Q2 last year.
- EBITDA loss for the half year of £1.78m, an improvement of 73% over the same period last year.
- Q2 EBITDA loss of £790,000; an improvement of 20% over Q1 this year and 76% over Q2 last year.
- Cash of £4.1m at 30 June 2003.
- Paris facility has become EBITDA positive.
- Termination of the Prague facility's property leases.
 - Continued progress made towards the disposal of the Nashville property.
 - I am pleased to announce that we have made significant progress during the period towards our objective of becoming EBITDA positive. Tight cost controls and focussed local management have driven bottom line improvements throughout our business without compromising customer services. Further improvements have been, and will continue to be, achieved through a strong sales performance that has seen our revenues grow well above the industry standard.

Michael Tobin Chief Executive Officer

Chief executive officer's review

Results

The operating results for the half year continued to show a significant improvement in the Group's trading performance. Turnover for the half year increased by 19% to £6,599,000 compared with the corresponding period of last year and for the quarter to 30 June 2003 turnover increased to £3,476,000, an improvement of 11% over the first quarter of this year and 20% over the corresponding quarter of last year.

The EBITDA loss for the half year was £1,780,000, an improvement of 73% compared with the corresponding period of last year. For the quarter to 30 June 2003, the EBITDA loss was £790,000, an improvement of 20% compared with the first quarter of this year and an improvement of 76% compared with the corresponding quarter of last year. The Paris facility became EBITDA positive, joining the London I and Frankfurt facilities.

Prior to exceptional items there was an adjusted loss before taxation of £4,888,000. Exceptional items totalled £987,000 and comprised abortive fund raising costs of £399,000, other corporate activity costs of £142,000, Prague EGM costs of £126,000, costs of the EGM requisitioned by a shareholder of £115,000, redundancy costs of £66,000 and a provision for onerous property leases of £139,000.

At 30 June 2003, cash stood at £4,069,000, which includes the initial £1.9 million received on 1 May 2003 from the escrow funds relating to the Nashville property, but excludes the balance remaining in the escrow funds and other cash deposits made in support of bank guarantees for property lease obligations. Other than minimal obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts, the Group had no borrowings at 30 June 2003.

Business Review

The Group continued its success in winning new contracts during the second quarter in what remain challenging market conditions. However, as recently announced, a customer contract with an annual value of £1.26 million was terminated with effect from 1 July 2003, although the net loss of revenue is expected to be reduced to approximately £0.7 million over the next twelve months. Consequently the annual recurring revenue order book at 30 June 2003 was maintained at £12.3 million, the same level as at 31 March 2003. The priority remains to focus on the sales fill-out of the vacant space in the Group's facilities, which will provide the opportunity to generate substantial additional recurring revenues over the next few years.

The facility operating costs remain under the strict control of the Country Managers. Operating costs for the half year, excluding depreciation and exceptional items, fell by 31% to £8.4 million compared with £12.1 million for the corresponding period of last year and for the quarter to 30 June 2003 they fell by 31% to £4.3 million compared with the corresponding quarter last year.

As previously reported, following the initial release of the £1.9 million of escrow funds, under the terms of the escrow agreement, the Nashville property can be sold and a conditional agreement exists to sell the property for £2.7 million net of a small price reduction arising as a consequence of due diligence by the purchaser. Negotiations are continuing towards the sale of the Nashville property and the release of the remaining escrow funds. In the event that the sale of the Nashville property does not proceed as currently anticipated, the Group will need to consider generating funds from alternative sources.

During the half year further measures were taken to reduce the Group's cash outgoings, including the disposal of the Luxembourg facility for a nominal consideration, the termination of the former Prague facility's property leases for a consideration of £1.3 million and the renegotiation of the terms of certain other property leases, which have been amended in the Group's favour.

As part of the Company's continued focus on reducing costs, the entire issued share capital of the Company was admitted to trading on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange plc on 21 July 2003.

Outlook

Despite the termination of the customer contract noted above, the Board's expectation remains that the operating results measured in terms of EBITDA will still show a significant improvement during 2003.

29 July 2003

Michael Tobin Chief Executive Officer

Group profit and loss account for the 6 months ended 30 June 2003

| | Notes | 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Turnover - continuing operations | | 3,476 | 6,599 | 5,527 | 11,545 |
| Cost of sales | | (4,822) | (9,337) | (14,532) | (23,400) |
| Provision for impairment of tangible fixed assets | 2 | _ | _ | . – | (2,105) |
| Other exceptional items | 2 | (126) | (126) | - | 490 |
| Other cost of sales | •••••• | (4,696) | (9,211) | 14,532) | (21,785) |
| Gross loss | | (1,346) | (2,738) | (9,005) | (11,855) |
| Administrative expenses | *************************************** | (1,607) | (3,242) | (4,360) | (7,720) |
| Exceptional items | 2 | (411) | (861) | - | (238) |
| Other administrative expenses | | (1,196) | (2,381) | (4,360) | (7,482) |
| Operating loss | | (2,953) | (5,980) | (13,365) | (19,575) |
| EBITDA loss before exceptional items | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | (790) | (1,780) | (6,617) | (10,509) |
| Depreciation | ····· | (1,626) | (3,213) | (6,748) | (7,213) |
| Provision for impairment of tangible fixed assets | | _ | - | - | (2,105) |
| Other exceptional items | •••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• | (537) | (987) | | 252 |
| Interest receivable and similar income | | 58 | 106 | 310 | 466 |
| Interest payable and similar charges | | (1) | (1) | (8) | (12) |
| Loss on ordinary activities before taxation | | (2,896) | (5,875) | (13,063) | (19,121) |
| Taxation on loss on ordinary activities | | | <u> </u> | · | - |
| Loss for the financial period | - | (2,896) | (5,875) | (13,063) | (19,121) |
| Loss per share: | ٠ | | | | |
| Basic and diluted loss per share | 3 | (1.92)p | (3.89)p | (8.66)p | (12.7)p |
| Adjusted loss per share | 3 | (1.56)p | (3.24)p | (8.66)p | (11.4)p |

GROUP balance sheet at 30 JUNE 2003

| | · Notes | 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Fixed assets | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 4 | 16,840 | 20,966 | 19,385 |
| Current assets | | | | |
| Debtors: due within one year | 5 | 6,041 | 12,232 | 8,771 |
| Debtors: due after one year | 5 | 5,079 | 4,956 | 6,563 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | *************************************** | 4,069 | 8,802 | 7,112 |
| | | 15,189 | 25,990 | 22,446 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 6 | (7,663) | (9,156) | (9,302) |
| Net current assets | | 7,526 | 16,834 | 13,144 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | 24,366 | 37,800 | 32,529 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | | | (9) | (3) |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | *************************************** | (598) | (2,054) | (3,110) |
| Net assets | | 23,768 | 35,737 | 29,416 |
| Capital and reserves | | | | |
| Called up share capital | | 1,509 | 1,509 | 1,509 |
| Capital redemption reserve | | 46 | 46 | 46 |
| Share premium account | | 102,529 | 102,528 | 102,529 |
| Other reserve | | 14,306 | 14,306 | 14,306 |
| →Profit and loss account | | (94,622) | (82,652) | (88,974) |
| Equity shareholders' funds | 8 | 23,768 | 35,737 | 29,416 |

Group statement of total recognised gains and losses

FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

| | 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Loss for the financial period | (2,896) | (5,875) | (13,063) | (19,121) |
| Currency translation differences | (136) | 227 | 318 | 54 |
| Total recognised losses for the financial period | (3,032) | (5,648) | (12,745) | (19,067) |

Group cash flow statement

FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

| · | Notes | 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities | . 7 | 799 | (2,697) | (10,710) | (11,060) |
| Returns on investments and servicing of finance | | 57 | 105 | 302 | 454 |
| Taxation | *************************************** | - | _ | (20) | (40) |
| Capital expenditure and financial investment | | (269) | (668) | (3,085) | (4,218) |
| Cash inflow/(outflow) before financing | | 587 | (3,260) | (13,513) | (14,864) |
| Financing | | (3) | (10) | (155) | (230) |
| Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period | | 584 | (3,270) | (13,668) | (15,094) |

Notes

1. Basis of preparation

The Board has prepared the financial information on a going concern basis and under the historical cost convention. During the six months ended 30 June 2003 the Group incurred an EBITDA loss of £1,780,000 and a loss after taxation of £5,875,000. Financial forecasts have been prepared covering the next 12 months that show the Group will meet its liabilities that fall due during that period. These forecasts are reliant on the sale of the Nashville property during 2003 to achieve a positive net cash position. Whilst the directors expect the property to be sold during 2003, if the property is not sold or a borrowing facility not raised of a sufficient amount secured against the property, the Group may not have sufficient working capital for its present requirements, that is for the next twelve months. In such an event, the directors would consider any other possible alternative sources of funding and failing finding alternative sources it would then be the duty of the Board to consider the most appropriate steps. The financial information does not include any adjustments that may be necessary should the additional funds not become available, and consequently the preparation on a going concern basis may no longer be appropriate.

The financial information has also been prepared using accounting policies consistent with those adopted and disclosed in the Group's statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002. The financial information for the periods ended 30 June 2003 and 30 June 2002 are unaudited and does not constitute full accounts within the meaning of the Companies Act 1985. The financial information for the year ended 31 December 2002 has been extracted from the full accounts for that year, which will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies following the Company's annual general meeting. The auditors' report was unqualified and did not contain statements under Section 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

2. Exceptional items

| | 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Included in cost of sales: | | | | |
| Provision for impairment of tangible fixed assets | | _ | _ | (2,105) |
| Provision for redundancy costs | _ | _ | _ | (412) |
| Provision for onerous property leases | - | - | | 397 |
| Provision for closure of Madrid | - | _ | _ | (1,068) |
| Provision for closure of Prague | (126) | (126) | | 1,573 |
| | (126) | (126) | _ | 490 |
| Included in administrative expenses: | | | , | |
| Abortive fund raising costs | (99) | (399) | - | _ |
| Other corporate activity costs | 8 | (142) | _ | _ |
| Provision for redundancy costs | (66) | (66) | . — | (397) |
| Provision for onerous property leases | (139) | (139) | _ | (421) |
| Costs of EGM requisitioned by shareholder | (115) | (115) | - | (173) |
| Reduction in provision for environmental remediation costs | _ | _ | _ | 753 |
| | (411) | (861) | _ | (238) |
| Net exceptional items | (537) | (987) | _ | (1,853) |

3. Loss per share

The basic and diluted loss per share for the 6 months ended 30 June 2003 is based on the loss for the financial period of £5,875,000 (6 months ended 30 June 2002 – £13,063,000; year ended 31 December 2002 – £19,121,000) and on the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period of 150,940,564 (6 months ended 30 June 2002 – 150,760,228; year ended 31 December 2002 – 150,930,084).

The adjusted loss per share has been calculated to give a fairer presentation of trading performance and for the 6 months ended 30 June 2003 is based on the adjusted loss for the financial period of £4,888,000 prior to the net exceptional expense of £987,000. The adjusted loss for the financial year ended 31 December 2002 is based on the adjusted loss for the financial period of £17,268,000 prior to the provision for impairment of tangible fixed assets of £2,105,000 and net exceptional credit of £252,000.

4. Tangible fixed assets

| T. JANGIDIE HALG ASSETS | Plant and equipment £'000 Unaudited | Property £'000 Unaudited | Other £'000 . Unaudited | Total £'000 Unaudited |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Net book value: | | | | |
| At 1 January 2003 | 16,791 | 1,721 | 873 | 19,385 |
| Additions | 67 | _ | 221 | 288 |
| Depreciation charge | (2,963) | (18) | (232) | (3,213) |
| Currency translation differences | 423 | (60) | 17 | 380 |
| At 30 June 2003 | 14,318 | 1,643 | 879 | 16,840 |

5. Debtors

| | 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | | |
| Cash held in escrow account | - | 2,758 | 1,961 |
| Trade debtors | 2,030 | 3,250 | 3,157 |
| Value added tax recoverable | 977 | 2,814 | 1,649 |
| Other debtors | 452 | 964 | 225 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 2,582 | 2,446 | 1,779 |
| | 6,041 | 12,232 | 8,771 |
| Amounts falling due after more than one year: | | | |
| Cash held in escrow account | 1,113 | _ | 1,070 |
| Rental and other deposits | 3,966 | 4,956 | 5,493 |
| | 5,079 | 4,956 | 6,563 |

CONTINUED

6. Creditors

| | 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Trade creditors | 2,905 | 4,668 | 5,015 |
| Deferred income | 2,661 | 1,850 | 1,975 |
| Accruals | 1,934 | 2,208 | 2,048 |
| Other | 163 | 430 | 264 |
| | 7,663 | 9,156 | 9,302 |

7. Notes to the group cash flow statement

a) Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

| | 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Operating loss | (2,953) | (5,980) | (13,365) | (19,575) |
| Provision for impairment of tangible fixed assets | | - | _ | 2,105 |
| Depreciation | 1,626 | 3,213 | 6,748 | 7,213 |
| Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets | | - | _ | 8 |
| Exceptional items | 537 | 987 | _ | (252) |
| Decrease/(increase) in debtors | 4,733 | 4,214 | (1,346) | 508 |
| Decrease in creditors and provisions | (3,144) | (5,131) | (2,747) | (1,067) |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities | 799 | (2,697) | (10,710) | (11,060) |

7. Notes to the group cash flow statement (continued)

b) Analysis of movement in net funds

| · . | 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period | 584 | (3,270) | (13,668) | (15,094) |
| Cash outflow from decrease in finance leases and hire purchase financing | 3 | 10 | 157 | 233 |
| Change in net funds resulting from cash flows | 587 | (3,260) | (13,511) | (14,861) |
| Currency translation differences | (136) | 227 | 318 | 54 |
| Movement in net funds in the period | 451 | (3,033) | (13,193) | (14,807) |
| Net funds at the beginning of the period | 3,609 | 7,093 | 21,900 | 21,900 |
| Net funds at the end of the period | 4,060 | 4,060 | 8,707 | 7,093 |
| Net funds analysed as follows: Cash at bank and in hand Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts | 4,069 (9) | 4,069 (9) | 8,802 (95) | 7,112 |
| | | | | |
| | 4,060 | 4,060 | 8,707 | 7,093 |
| 8. Reconciliation of movement in equity sh | · | | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | 7,093 Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
| 8. Reconciliation of movement in equity shaped to the financial period | AREHOldERS' fu 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 |
| ** | AREHOldERS' fu 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | OND 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited | Year einded 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited |
| Loss for the financial period | AREHOldERS' for a months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited (2,896) | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited (5,875) | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited (13,063) | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited (19,121) |
| Loss for the financial period Currency translation differences | AREHOldERS' for a months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited (2,896) | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited (5,875) | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited (13,063) | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited (19,121) |
| Loss for the financial period Currency translation differences New shares issued | AREHOlders' fu 3 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited (2,896) (136) | 6 months ended 30 June 2003 £'000 Unaudited (5,875) 227 | 6 months ended 30 June 2002 £'000 Unaudited (13,063) 318 | Year ended 31 December 2002 £'000 Audited (19,121) 54 |